

**FEATURING BEST PRACTICES
OF STATE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

Prison Labor

State Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, Virginia

**Virginia Department of Veterans' Affairs
implemented this best practice
in January 1997**

*Qualifying under the
Best Practices catalogue*

3 Provide Capabilities
32 Support resources
322 Enhance/upgrade organizational capabilities

**Best Practice Summary
(how it works, how you measure it)**

The State Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, Virginia, comes under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Veterans' Affairs. Limited funding for manpower to operate the cemetery compelled the agency to look for other means to maintain the cemetery grounds, buildings and roadways which covers an area of approximately 27 acres. The agency inquired into the possibility of using the resources of the Department of Correction to meet their needs. Nottoway Correctional Center is located near the cemetery. The agency coordinates the care of the cemetery grounds, roadways and buildings with officials at Nottoway and use inmate labor to accomplish the maintenance needs of the cemetery.

Impact on the Process Organizational Performance (OUTCOMES)

The grounds are well maintained, the inmates learn skills that will help them in their future employment needs, and the agency personnel costs are kept at a minimum. The agency benefits from using inmate labor by reducing personnel costs. They have been able to limit the manpower at the cemetery to three full-time positions and one part-time position. Two of the full-time positions perform the administrative functions and the other full-time and the part-time perform grounds work and equipment maintenance duties.

Best Practice Qualification

Efficiency has been greatly enhanced by the use of inmate services provided by the Department of Corrections. The Department of Veterans' Affairs would have had to hire at least three additional full-time grounds and maintenance workers at the annual cost of approximately \$60,000 to keep the buildings, grounds, and roadways maintained at an acceptable level.

For Additional Information

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